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A center beam car has a main deck structure extending laterally from a main center sill, a laterally extending top truss structure, and a central vertically oriented central beam structure. The center beam so formed defines bunks upon in which to carry cargo. The upper region of the web-work structure includes a top chord mounted to run between two end bulkheads. The deck has a central portion and end portions. The end portions of the deck are carried at a greater height than the center portion, the difference in height corresponding to the height of a bundle of lumber. The car has a center sill having a depth corresponding to the depth of the step in the deck. The end portion of the center sill has an internal plate defining a draft gear pocket upper wall. The medial portion of the center sill is narrower than the end portion, and of deep section, such that it has a high aspect ratio. Web separators are mounted in the medial portion of the center sill by a method that includes making part of the weld from outside the center sill through welding apertures. As the end deck is carried at a high level, the bolster is abnormally deep.

1. The first step is to identify the problem or goal. This involves understanding the current situation, identifying the desired outcome, and determining the scope of the project.